



To the Members and Friends of the St. Mark's Family,

What an outstanding year we have had at St. Mark's! We have come out of the Covid times a closer and stronger Christian body. Father Stephen has asked that the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign be "Come and See."

Come and see what the Church offers to feed your spiritual needs. There are our Sunday services, Wednesday Healing services, and various Bible studies. For me personally, these opportunities to hear and learn more about God's word feed my soul.

Come and see what the Church has to offer in the way of service to the Church. Service to the Church through its committees and groups, such as Pastoral Care providing support for members in their time of need during illness and bereavement, the Altar Guild, Sunday School, Building and Grounds that maintains our facilities, and Christian Formation supporting Christian learning opportunities. These activities make us a family.

Come and see what the Church has to offer in the way of service to our community. Our Outreach committee works to provide take home food for needy students; semi-annual Homeless lunches offering a meal, showers, clothes, and opportunities to access needed services; and our Community Arts Center that provides art opportunities for children, adults, and families. Our partnership with 28 Street Elementary is offering these children an enrichment opportunity that is not available at their school. Helping these children grow is an investment in our community's future.

I feel that just by myself, I do not have the ability to make much of a difference in my Church and my Community, but by working with others I think we can accomplish much! Service feeds my soul and makes me feel I am doing what Christ calls us to do. Stewardship is not only about giving money, but also giving of your time, talents, and treasures.

Come and See what the Church has to offer for your soul and our community. Enclosed with this letter is your pledge card for the coming year. Loyalty Sunday will be November 12th when you may submit your card at either the 8:00 am or 10:00 am services. You may also mail it to the Church Office or submit your pledge online at www.stmarksgulfport.com/give. I encourage you to search your hearts and commit to submit your pledge card.

“What return can I make to the Lord for all the good He has given to me?
(Psalm 116)

We are planning to have a Loyalty Breakfast after the 8:00 service and a Potluck Lunch after the 10:00 service. In addition to pledges and finances, Loyalty Sunday also provides the opportunity for each of us to assess our individual participation in Church activities, ministries and fellowship.

I would like to leave you with the words of Saint Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun who lived in the 1500's

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world,
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has not body now on earth but yours.

Come and See how you can be the body of Christ and how you can feed your soul. We all look to the Church in different ways and the Church counts on us, too.

Faithfully yours,

Donna Van Loon
Senior Warden